

The Sydney Morning Herald.

No. 14,034.

SYDNEY, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1883.

16 PAGES.

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Births.

CLARK.—March 14, at her residence, Fernells, Hunter's Hill, the wife of F. J. Clark, of a son, prematurely, still-born.
KIDSTON.—March 6, at 101 Bourke-street, the wife of John Kidston, of a son.
COOPER.—March 15, at her residence, Manly Beach, the wife of G. O'Connor, of a son.
STEPHEN.—March 15, at her residence, 2, Jeannet-street, Surry Hills, the wife of John D. Stephen, of a son.
BUNN.—March 15, at her residence, 1, Atherton-street, the wife of William Bunnen, of a son.
THORNE.—March 21, at Vaucluse, Glebe Point, the wife of L. J. Thorne, of a daughter, stillborn.

MARRIAGES.

HENDERSON—WYTHE.—At St. Mathias', Paddington, by the Rev. Dr. Barry, Joseph Longmore, son of the late John Henderson, of a son, to Rosalie, eldest daughter of Thomas Wythe, J.P., of Milton.

Deaths.

POX.—March 17, 1883, at his residence, Theatre Royal Hotel, Liverpool-street, Robert James Fox, aged 52 years; second son of the late Henry Fox, native of Devonshire, England. Testimony given at inquest, that he had been ill for some time.
GRIFFITH.—March 5, at his residence, Mill Cottage, Nown, N.W., George Gray, late of York, Scotland, aged 64 years.

MALLINAN.—In loving remembrance of Mary Ellen, the dearly beloved wife of Dennis Hinnan, who departed this life on March 15, 1883, at her residence, 13, Macquarie-place, A.C.L.

WATKINS.—March 7, at Tarrawee, near Beechworth, Victoria, Elizabeth Stewart, widow of Peter Watkins, Tarrawee, and mother of three sons, all deceased.

HERBY.—March 17, at the Ursuline Convent, Ann Herby, aged 64, faithful servant for 20 years in Dr. Beddoe's family.

JONES.—March 18, at his residence, Forbes-street, Windsor, Alfred Jones, aged 77 years.

MCNAUL.—In loving remembrance of my dear father, George McNaul, who departed this life March 25, 1875, aged 27, at Bank-street, Chippendale. Gone to the bright and better land.

PLATT.—March 19, at her residence, the Hartington, Battersea, Isidore Holland, a relic of J. H. Walling, Esq., and beloved mother of H. C. Walling, of this city, and M. J. Walling, his brother, aged 66 years.

MCNAUL.—March 20, at his residence, Kingwood, Glenmore-road, Richard Henry, aged 47, only son of Henry Prentiss, of 18, Pitt-street, and Mrs. Anna, 18, Pitt-street.

BUCK.—At his residence, Praeser-street, Petersham, Thomas Buck, in his 60th year, late of Somersby, England.

AGENCE HAVAS, 5, Piccadilly in Paris. Paris—AGENTS FOR THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, THE STONE MAIL, AND THE ECHO, in France and Belgium.

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Talbot, 1, Bank; 1, Bank; 1, Bank;

Barrowall, 1, Bank; 1, Bank; 1, Bank;

Birchurst, 1, Bank; 1, Bank; 1, Bank;

Banks, 1, Bank; 1, Bank; 1, Bank;

Bentley, 1, Bank; 1, Bank; 1, Bank;

Bentleigh, 1, Bank; 1, Bank; 1, Bank;

Bentley, 1, Bank; 1, Bank; 1, Bank;

Bentleigh, 1, Bank; 1, Bank; 1, Bank;

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THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1883.

OUR MELBOURNE LETTER.

OPEN COLUMN.

MELBOURNE, MARCH 19.

On Saturday, being St. Patrick's Day, the workmen of that saint walked in procession through the city, clad in frowsy raincoat and green scarfs, and carrying, with difficulty—which difficulty the wind augmented—large green banners variously embossed with devices, in which impossible young women playing upon impossibly harps were the principal. Also there were several discordant bands playing with a cheerful disregard of each other's efforts the various airs of "Wearing of the Green," "St. Patrick's Day in the Morning," "The Harp that Once," and other melodies associated with shamrock nationality. The wearers of the green scarfs looked as if they were ready to shed their hearts' gore, or, by preference, the heart's gore of somebody else in the advocacy of their cause. I am not clear what cause, and I think they were not themselves clear either; but of the singular purpose of the demonstration, that could be no question. Reflectively one could not but be impressed with the spectacle of a large number of men nursing traditional wrath because of imaginary wrongs, and quite willing to have the same fanned into a blaze by any self-seeking individual who might happen to come among them, and for his own selfish purposes, extenuate them into fury by recital of the injustice neither they nor their compatriots on the other side of the world ever suffered.

But as nobody not Irish very much regarded this exhibition of Celtic Bohemianism the occasion passed off as it had been a thunder shower and had done no damage. One cannot, however, forbear asking what is the use of this annual display of seedy greenery? Englishmen do not find it necessary to make a like display on St. George's Day, nor Scotchmen on St. Andrew's Day, nor Welshmen on the anniversary of St. David's birth or death, whichever it may be. There is no understanding this Hibernian truculence. Yesterday Prior Butler set forth, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the virtues of the saint who, being a Scot, converted Ireland to Christianity, and he expressed a confident hope that the day of Irish autonomy was approaching, after 700 years of Saxon oppression, as it was not quite certain that the moment they were left to themselves they would fall to cutting one another's throats.

The consequences that they are so considerably out of the political conflict in this colony just now had something to do in intensifying the turbulent defiance of this year's seventeenth of March demonstration. For the late election did most cruelly leave them on the cold side of the door. And this is why Sir Bryan has almost franticly resolved to oppose at West Bourke Mr. Denkin, the young man who, by the grace of heaven, and the accident of being a writer on the Radical organ, is now a Minister of the Crown. And yet Sir Bryan has no chance of succeeding any more than that he has and very elongated Hibernian, McLean, has of winning Collingwood from Mr. Langridge. Naturally, I have no faith for either Mr. Denkin or Mr. Langridge, but as they have got it somewhere and somehow, they might as well be let to go for in their own constituencies as to try to set others.

The other Irishman, to wit, Longmore, who has been powerfully banished from the Assembly, to the great benefit of the whole community, is to be entertained as a "banquet." But then everybody, at this present, is being entertained at a banquet, and the difficulty seems to be to find somebody to whom a banquet has not been, or is going to be given. The curious thing about banquets is that they are given as expressions of condolence and congratulation. Thus, there is Carter, late member for St. Kilda, who is an illustration of the former motive. Carter was defeated at St. Kilda, therefore he had to be entertained at a banquet.

The police have been commanded to provide themselves with great coats to wear at nights during the coming winter. But the police say they do not want any great coats, for that they are not cold; and, moreover, they do not wish to have to incur the expense of buying the coats, which is probably the best reason of all for their disinclination to wear them. On the other hand, the police authorities say that the men are always becoming invalided on account of having no great coats, and it would seem as if the police great coat question were going to be a trouble.

And this notion of the police brings up the name, naturally enough, of the ex-Chief Commissioner, Captain Standish. He has never got over the humiliation of his removal from the position he held for so many years. To outward seeming he cared nothing for it, but the humiliation struck deep into his heart.

And yesterday there died a genuinely good fellow, who had for 31 years honourably held his place in the medical profession, meaning Mr. William Garrard, surgeon, who for nearly a quarter of a century was intimately associated with the Melbourne Hospital. He was buried to-day, and there stood by his grave only half a dozen of the craft to which he belonged—another proof of how soon we are forgotten. Poor Garrard has been out of the professional running of late, and other men, and not so good men, have taken his place. It may be, indeed, that "twas ever thus;" but one cannot well see why it should thus be that good and useful men, though they may happen to be out of the race, should be so easily forgotten.

And today Mr. Goolie, a colonist of 44 years, is dead. He is also a former official of some kind, but he had occupied so many different offices that nobody could ever say what he was, or how he was occupied. He was always, in some way, conspicuously before the public; but I do not know that he will take a notable place in Victorian history.

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.

The following lists of candidates who were successful at the recent examinations were posted at the University, yesterday, in addition to those which have already appeared:

MATRICULATION.—J. C. Gilmore, H. A. M. Macleod, J. H. Hall, whose name appears on the other side of the Hall. First year.—T. C. Barker, D. Beagling, W. Bennett, Mary E. Brown, J. T. Dudley, Theophilus England, T. H. England, D. G. Ferguson, H. Fox, F. Fraser, A. G. Fullerton, M. R. Garretson, E. H. Gervis, E. T. Hills, V. H. Hills, C. J. R. Jones, C. Kinnaird, M. Kinnaird, M. Kinnaird, A. C. Miller, R. J. Miller, T. P. Moloney, R. J. Pope, C. Purser, J. Ramsey, H. B. Rygate, I. Florence Thompson, R. B. Trindall.

SECOND YEAR.—L. F. Armstrong, W. W. Armstrong, F. H. Bellamy, A. B. Barlow, W. C. Clarke, C. F. Davis, C. G. Hargrave, James H. H. Jones, E. Trevor Jones, H. L. J. G. Legge, F. Leverrier, J. O'Neill, D. McQuinn, V. Moore, W. G. Parish, A. E. Perkins, T. Higgs, P. W. Rygate, A. B. Shand, A. Shaw, W. F. Tapley, T. W. C. Ward.

THIRD YEAR.—W. A. Atkinson, H. M. Baylis, P. W. Barnes, D. H. Bucknall, W. F. Corlett, H. Crocker, W. H. Hall, J. N. Manning, C. H. McEvilly, F. L. S. Moore, D. C. Moore, John Moore, A. B. Piddington, A. E. Rich, G. E. Rich, Tom Hollis, J. F. Rose, C. D. H. Rygate, P. W. Street, J. Woodcock.

For the honour lists have also been posted; when complete they will be published, probably in Saturday's issue.

HAWARDEN CHURCH.—It is a fair large structure, externally a plain old brick building, with a low tower and a dwarf spire, standing in the midst of a large population of graves. About 30 years since the church was almost entirely destroyed by fire. The walls, however, escaped destruction, and the present building is a restoration of the original, the stonework, however, which the entire estate is derived by the present family. The rector, Rev. Stephen Gladstone, the second son of the Premier, although not a great preacher, is one to whom men listen with pleasure, he is quietly and modestly dressed. But no doubt the church services are the chief attraction. Not far down the hill, the church is in residence in the castle, is seen him sitting in the plain, unadorned pew, near the lectern and opposite the pulpit. At the time and place indicated, he quietly rises and goes through the church, pausing at the service. The dark-complexioned, bald-headed man is not a British assassin after all, but only a patriot who seeks an opportunity to subscribe for "The Irish World," or contribute to the skirmishes' fund for blowing up England with dynamite.

Let us hope so at least.

American route would reach it on the forty-second day instead of the fifty-sixth.

If passengers to America are cut off from the Pacific route they would, via the Red Sea, reach the cities in the Eastern States in about 64 days, and San Francisco in about 71 days, in place of doing so in 35 and 20 days, as at present.

POSTAL UNION IN RELATION TO THE SAN FRANCISCO MAIL SERVICE.—Invitations have been issued by Victoria to all the colonies to join us in a conference on the Postal Union, and it is reported that all have signified their intention to be represented except N. S. Wales and New Zealand, from whom no reply has been received, and these two colonies are now considering the question whether they should renew their existing mail contract with San Francisco, and this is a fitting time to consider what advantages the Postal Union offers to the two latter colonies, and whether these are so great and so manifest that they should allow the San Francisco mail service to terminate, and rely on the Red Sea route alone for their communication with Europe, and utterly abandon their present means of communication with the western hemisphere, and in forming an opinion on the subject we are greatly aided by the reported interview of Mr. Bradbury, agent for Mr. H. H. C. Cook, for the Postmaster-General on the 23rd ultime, on the subject of the Postal Union, which has shown in an unexpected degree the advantage this colony possesses in having the Atlantic route to New York, and that the Government should, in view of this, terminate its mail contract with San Francisco, and this is a fitting time to consider what advantages the Postal Union offers to the two latter colonies, and whether these are so great and so manifest that they should allow the San Francisco mail service to terminate, and rely on the Red Sea route alone for their communication with Europe, and utterly abandon their present means of communication with the western hemisphere, and in forming an opinion on the subject we are greatly aided by the reported interview of Mr. Bradbury, agent for Mr. H. H. C. 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get out of it. The towns supply society excitements, pleasures, and instead of becoming less dependent on these, men and women become more dependent. The culture which is now supplied in the country as well as in the town creates tastes which the country does not meet. The tendency of such that is taught in school and beyond it to make humanity more gregarious and life more artificial and more intense.

But although the set of the populations towards the towns is one of the most natural of things, it is not a thing to be regarded without concern. It will hardly be considered a promising fact that more than one-third of the population of a colony which boasts of a territory of 310,000 square miles should live within some ten miles of Sydney harbour. With all its conveniences, town life is accompanied by some rather serious drawbacks. The luxuries which do so much to attract people have a tendency to enervate them. The rule, we believe, is that notwithstanding the rapid growth of great cities, the natural population of the towns grows with less rapidity than that of the country. The writer of the two articles in the *Times* on the decrease of the population in France, to which we have already drawn attention, remarks that not only does the set of the population towards the towns denote "the rural districts of their inhabitants, but the emigrants in changing a country life for a town life become themselves less reproductive, since the birth rate in large towns is nominally less than that of the country, and we know that large towns like London and Paris have their populations maintained and increased by the continued flow of immigrants from the country. So much so, that in these capitals it is rare to meet in society with a man born in the metropolis itself, and families which take up their residence in a metropolis usually become extinct after two or three generations. . . . The fatal conclusion resulting from the population return is this, that the families of the artisans and the agricultural labourer are themselves on the decrease, while the absorption of the rural population in the towns tends still more to depopulate the country." Thus the disproportionate increase of the population of the towns comes in the end to mean a check to the increase of the population generally. Many proposals have been offered with a view to the checking this inequality in the growth of the population, but the fact that the inequality is unchecked shows that they have not proved effectual. In this country a variety of expedients have been offered with a view of getting larger numbers of people on the land, but none of them has been a success. No doubt bonuses to farmers would do something, but bonuses to the farmer would have to mean bonuses in some form to the manufacturer, and if bonuses of the one kind would tend to help the country, bonuses of the other would tend to yield more help to the towns. Something in the way of the equal distribution of immigrants ought certainly to be done, but much beyond that will be attempted in vain.

The new Government in Victoria has weathered its first difficulty, so far as the re-election of Ministers is concerned. The few constituencies that had the privilege of deciding this matter for the country at large have supported its decision as disclosed at the recent general election. It is, in fact, that general election which has justified the coalition, because it has practically necessitated it. The country, on being appealed to, refused to give either side a definite and sufficient majority; and as neither party could govern singly, the only alternative was to try and govern jointly. It is very doubtful at present, however, whether either of the leaders will have to surrender very much in agreeing on a common policy. The needs of the country are mainly practical. There are no burning questions agitating the community, and for the matter of that there need not be. The retrospect of the last few years abundantly testifies that it is the necessities of politicians, and not the necessities of the country, that create them, and if the necessities of politicians will be equally well served by such questions being kept in abeyance, they may slumber for a time. The most amusing part of the discovery, however, is that, with all the appearance of great rivalry, it would seem from recent explanations that there never has been such a great difference of temperament and opinion as a simple-minded public has been led to believe. Mr. Birney, in explaining and justifying the coalition to his constituents in Geelong, has told them he has always been a Conservative, and that when he has heard statements to the contrary it has moved him to laughter. Probably it has. Wilkes used to say he was never Wilkesian, and doubtless enjoyed his laugh at the expense of his supporters. On the other hand, Mr. Service explained at Castlemaine that he had never been a Conservative, but was always a Liberal. The two leaders, therefore, to some extent, seem to change places; and it will certainly be curious if in the Cabinet discussions Mr. Service wants to go too fast, and Mr. Birney puts on a drag.

In taking charge of the financial affairs, Mr. Service has, to some extent, found the same difficulty that Mr. Birney found on taking office here, namely, that the suddenness of the dissolution had left some necessary expenses unprovided for. Mr. Service has had to use up the advance account, and is still short of funds. One of the first things for the Assembly to do will be to vote money, and perhaps it will have to indemnify the Government for having satisfied claims without authority rather than keep creditors waiting. That, however, is not the whole of the financial difficulty, for it turns out now that so many claims had been allowed to accrue on the Loan Fund; that though the loan has now been successfully floated, there will not be the amount that was anticipated available for fresh works. This will necessarily give rise to some disappointment, and the railway extension scheme will have to be curtailed of its fair proportions. In that case some constituencies will have to go without their little lines, and a good deal of the time spent over Mr. Bent's beautiful distribution amongst all the constituencies is seen to have been wasted. It was simply by that Railway Bill that he kept the House together, and it occupied the attention of the Assembly to the exclusion of other work; but now it has come to grief, and a fresh scheme must be devised.

From some cause or causes not yet explained the number of unregistered students at the Sydney University this year is considerably less than it was last year, when, notwithstanding all that can be said in the way of explanation or otherwise, it

ought to have been much larger. Both public and private education is being extended, and, as we are bound to suppose, is being improved; and yet the boys who present themselves at the University are comparatively few—one might almost say disgracefully so. It is possible that, as people come to understand the meaning and value of the several examinations conducted by the University, the junior and senior examinations are taking their proper places as tests of merit, and that the matriculation is being left to do its proper work; but it is, to ascertain whether a candidate has or has not the ability and the grounding in education needful to enable him to begin and go through a University course with credit. Too often, people have looked upon the matriculation, and have used it as a means to obtain a certificate, which is required in the case of a man to be articled to the law, and which may be useful in many other ways. This is unfair to the University and to the public, because small as the number of matriculated students is, it is annually subject to a heavy discount of lads who do not intend to go on to lectures. If the two very distinct objects for which examinations are held could be kept well apart, we should have a more correct idea of what sort of work is being done in schools, and also be able at once to ascertain the number of young men who are intending to pursue one or other of the learned professions. Important as this may be, it is a small matter alongside of the fact that either general tuition is unequal to the task of preparing boys for a University career, or commercial life has an attraction too strong for our colonial youth. The latter has much truth in it, whatever may be said of the former. Nor may we too readily condemn colonial boys for that. They are brought up amid surroundings in which they can see and hear what may not be done by many without much brain. The temptations of trade even, to say nothing of commerce and life in the interior, are too near and too potent; but the fact is none the less to be deplored. We have now reached a stage in our colonial history when, besides supplying through the University all the candidates that are needed for the learned profession, there ought also to be many other youths, some of whom should not be willing to accept a life of leisure on other terms than those which hold for gentlemen in older countries; and still more of them there should be who can spare time for a liberal education before they settle down to the life of city men.

"A Mother" writes us to say that she is the daily witness of much cruelty practised by children attending a Public school near her house. If one person sees so much as she describes in one school, we are left to infer that the aggregate amount of juvenile savagery is very great. For what may be seen in schools, we may add all that happens out of schools; and that probably is a good deal more. It would be quite a task, however, to trace this infantile barbarity to the defective teachings of Public schools, whilst it is true that in such schools—indeed, in all schools—very much might be done to prevent it. This mother says that she sees children catapulted, pull the wings and legs off insects, and do sundry other like cruel things. This is not a new development, and it is not worse than conduct which is known to be pretty general among boys, and girls also, the world over. It may be remedied to a large degree by mothers themselves. Suppose, for example, they teach the lessons of tenderness at home: for until they do that it will be hard work for schoolmasters to make much improvement. It is said to be the habit of some mothers to call their children by the names of certain animals, and to chastise them with weapons suited to oxen or asses. Such children do not come to a schoolmaster with sufficient virgin soil, but as is said to be given to him a hope or a chance. Still it is very true that a vast deal of school teaching affords ample and good opportunities for instruction in humanity. We may reasonably hope that this is not neglected, and if pupils are slow to learn, we must have patience; and if they are found guilty of doing such things as "A Mother" describes, then let the master have due authority to punish them. Domestic animals feel no more pain than wild birds do, and there is no reason why children should not learn by some wholesome pain inflicted upon themselves that defences members of the brute creation feel too. Many of these "human brutes" can be touched through the skin which enfolds them, and for the purpose of teaching some lessons to some nature there is no better plan. It is too sweeping to say that nothing can be done to refine or elevate these children: the whole of their school work should be, if it is not, towards such ends. The continual sentiments of tenderness and pity which largely the work of good teaching, and we must not hastily write down either a system of education or a class of teachers because of one bad example. No doubt there is room enough for amendment, and it is worth while from time to time to look at the humbugging effects of day-school life, for we certainly are entitled to expect to see the growth of a tender as well as a strong humanity amongst its regular and best results.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

This people of Madagascar have failed to satisfy French demands, and orders have been given for the blockade of their ports. The Government of the United States sends a ship of war to Madagascar to protect American interests. The Nihilists of Russia have threatened to blow up the Kremlin Palace if the nomination of the Czar is persisted in, unless his Majesty grants the charter they have demanded. In regard to Ireland, Mr. Parnell has declared that the country is desperate, and that every possible form of violence will be resorted to unless the concessions demanded from the British Government are granted. There seems to be some doubt as to the truth of the reports relating to the murderous attack upon Lady Florence Dixie. The Charity Organisation Society is urging upon Sir Charles Dilke great pecuniary aid to emigrants.

The Legislative Council had another short sitting yesterday, but dealt with several items of business, and among those passed through all its stages the Temporary Supply Bill for the present month. The House at its rising adjourned until next Wednesday.

The Legislative Assembly yesterday showed a disposition to work, and after quickly disposing of the preliminary business, resolved the consideration in Committee of the Wilson's postponed clauses of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill. Several substantial clauses were dealt with, including the much vexed question of whether soldiers should have the same right to practice in the Criminal Courts as barristers; also, whether the death penalty should be inflicted in certain cases.

A most extraordinary proceeding, we learn, took place in the Legislative Assembly yesterday. Mr. Buchanan was noticed going about the House with a paper in his hand, which he exhibited to the members after member. It is said that the paper in question was of a kind of requisition to the Government, asking them to reconsider their decision with regard to Mr. Copland, and take that hon. member back into the Ministry again. We learn that some 16 or 18 members were induced to sign this remarkable document. It is scarcely necessary to point out the unconstitutional nature of such a proceeding as interfering with the members of a Government in regard to their choice of colleagues, or the inconvenience that would arise if this round-robin system is to be adopted. It can easily be seen that the most mischievous consequences might ensue if pressure is put to bear upon a Government by means of documents signed by hon. members on matters never discussed by the House. It is to be hoped that if this requisition is presented the Government will lay it upon the table, or that, if they do not do so, some member will move for its production, so that the public may see who are the members who can be induced to take so unusual a course. It was reported before the House rose that the whole staff had collapsed, in consequence of several members having withdrawn their names from the requisition.

Good Friday and Easter Monday being public holidays, the following arrangements will be observed in the mail branch of the General Post Office:—The

various offices of that branch will be open from 9 till 10 a.m. only, and the morning delivery will be effected by letter-carriers. The country mails usually despatched in the afternoon and evening, also the coastwise, intercolonial, and foreign mails, will close at 9 a.m. The iron pillar receivers and receivers at suburban post-offices will only be cleared at the first usual hour on that day.

It will be seen by advertisement in another column that special arrangements have been made by the Railways Department to meet the convenience of travellers during the holiday season. A train will leave Redfern station at 7.30 this evening for Bathurst and Orange, making the same stoppages as the mail train. Another train will leave for Goulburn at 7.50 p.m., making similar stoppages. As the mail trains are expected to be very crowded, the public will do well to avail themselves of these extra trains, and book early. By this means they will promote their own comfort, and to the public convenience. It will also be seen by advertisement that an excursion up the far-famed Hawkesbury River has been arranged to leave Sydney to-morrow.

The arrangements in connection with the holding of the Volunteer Contingent have been completed, and the men will all move into camp on Friday, and not on Sunday, as has been stated. Yesterday the stores to be used at the Winter encampment were forwarded to their destination, and to-day those for use at Middle Head will be despatched to the camp grounds. To-day the staff consisting of Colonel Richardson, Commandant; Colonel Christie, Major of Brigade; Colonel Bayne, Brigadier Paymaster and Quartermaster; Captain Compton, Assistant Quartermaster; Lieutenant G. B. Alvey, orderly Officer to the Commandant, will proceed to Wimborne by train and take up their quarters at the camp.

In the Supreme Court yesterday, Lord v. Hines and Commercial Bank v. Dicht, two actions of ejectment, resulted in verdicts for the respective plaintiffs. In Tipping v. Burton and another, action by a sub-contractor against the Government contractors for work done in relation to a vessel for the plaintiff, damages £227 10s. 1d. In Currie v. Pringle, an action of ejectment, the plaintiff obtained a verdict. Curran v. Parker and Smith v. Danier were heard. After the disposal of a number of motions and formal matter in Equity, His Honour resumed the hearing of the Equity suit, Langdon v. Hines, wherein the plaintiff seeks to recover a reversionary interest in some property in George-street, principally mortgaged by him to Reynes, Trease, and Company, but which is now held by Hines, who bought it from an intermediate purchaser. The argument was being proceeded with when the Court adjourned.

It would appear as if the summer session had commenced afresh, judging by the heat of the past week. The atmosphere has been very close and muggy, and has not been fit for the steady north-easterly breeze which have been favoured with each day, would have been very oppressive indeed. A few clouds gathered up after sunset yesterday. Later in the evening the clouds cleared in denser masses, and there was every indication of rain.

PLANS for the large hall and additional offices in connection with the Town Hall have now been completed by Mr. Sapford, the City Architect. They consist of five sheets of drawings, each 4 feet by 2 feet in size, in measurement, and exhibit the most careful work in their preparation. A meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday next, with a view to their formal adoption being confirmed, after which it is to be hoped the work of erecting the building will be commenced and proceeded with without delay.

WITH each succeeding rehearsal the City Band increases in efficiency, and it is probable that in a week or two it will be formally inaugurated by his Worship the Mayor. Owing mainly to the efforts of Mr. J. A. Head, hon. secy. to the committee, and Mr. Sebastian Hodge, the bandmaster, a band of 40 competent musicians—most of them fit to be soloists—has been organised, and the progress the members have made in practising together has been, naturally enough, very rapid. It is hoped that when the appeal is made to the citizens will contribute freely to the maintenance of this City Band, although it is proposed, when the band is fully equipped, to charge 2s. 6d. per head. The chief items of interest, however, were the eloquent addresses delivered by Mr. Charles Bright, the well-known lecturer, lately returned from America, who occupied the chair, Mrs. E. L. Watson, now on her faraway visit to Sydney prior to her return to America, after some months' residence in Australia, and Miss Ada Campbell, from Melbourne. The room was afterwards cleared for a dance, and an enjoyable evening was spent by such of the audience as stayed for this portion of the entertainment.

ON Thursday afternoon last Mr. Thomas Strickland, the senior resident partner of the firm of Messrs. Young and Lark, was presented by the employees with a very handsome silver tea and coffee service and silver, prior to his departure for England by the *s.s. Cephalonia*. The presentation was made by Mr. A. C. Johnson, the chief clerk, who, in an eloquent and touching speech, referred to the long association of Mr. Strickland with the firm, and the high esteem in which he is held by the employees, and also by a very large circle of commercial and other friends in the city. Mr. Strickland was very cordially but briefly responded. His health was excellent, and he gave a hearty cheer for his family, and the very interesting ceremony brought to a close.

YESTERDAY the Art Society's Exhibition at the Town Hall was attended even better than on the preceding days, and this growing appreciation of the society's efforts has given the members great encouragement. The Sydney Mechanics School of Arts has now attained its 50th year, and yesterday the event was celebrated by a concert. The various rooms were decorated for the occasion in the most appropriate manner, and a large number of persons, mostly ladies, were present. The performances were numerous, and a most interesting artistic and scientific exhibition was held throughout the day, and till 10 last night. There were a great many visitors present the whole day, and in the evening the hall proved far too small to hold the number that were anxious to hear the president's address. The address, and a fuller description of the proceedings, will be found in another part of the paper. The exhibition will remain open to-day.

A MEETING of the committee of the Aboriginal Protection Association of New South Wales was held on Monday afternoon, the Hon. John Marks, M.L.C., presiding.

Correspondence was read from the superintendents of Maloga and Wagangarra Aboriginal stations, respecting the conduct of the conduct of the blacks under their care, and stating that the general health of the people had improved, but that there was still a great deal of whoring and debilitating fever, from which a number of the blacks have died at Maloga, mostly infants or aged blacks. The people at Maloga are anxiously awaiting the permission of the Government to enter on the land promised as a reserve, and 40 to 50 men are ready to commence erection of dwellings, enclosing land, &c., so soon as they receive authority to begin work. Horses are required at Maloga and Wagangarra for dray and plough work, and at the latter place the superintendents require seed, wheat, oats, barley sufficient to sow 30 acres. The secretary stated that as the result of a recent deputation the Government had granted £200 to meet the pressing need of each of the above stations, but this amount would not cover the annual liabilities. Several accounts were presented and passed, and the hon. secretary was requested to communicate again with the Government in reference to the balance of the subsidy, and for authority to occupy the reserved land near Maloga. It was decided to defer the public meeting till July, and in the meantime to obtain the fullest possible information as to the protection of aborigines in other colonies, to form the basis of arrangements for the protection of our native tribes. A recent minute of the Union, the Colonial Secretary was discussed, the committee considering that the adequate protection of the 9000 aborigines of the colony was a national obligation which only the Government could fulfil, with the association occupying merely an auxiliary position.

We understand it is intended, immediately after the holidays, to hold a preliminary meeting with a view to a "Federal Geographical Society of Australia." The undertaking is in the hands of some gentlemen who attempted to conduct the defunct geographical section of the Royal Society. The principal objects contemplated by the society are to help explorers who are now engaged in their work in the unexplored parts of Australia, to organise on an adequate scale and properly systematic new expeditions, to supply them with suitable scientific and other appliances, and also to provide means of signalling in the event of separation, either by choice or accident. It has been observed that the explorations of Mr. G. Palmerston, Mr. Favenc, Mr. Giles, and the Messrs. Forrest, brilliant as they have been on the score of personal courage and discretion, have not been productive of the practical results to geographical and natural science they might have been made susceptible of. The personal privations and sufferings of some of the band have been considerable, and in some cases their actual achievements have been rendered of no avail for want of a central committee to co-ordinate them and to make the most of them. Through a series of great vicissitudes and length, mountains of great height, and terrains of extreme fertility, and containing evidence of great mineral wealth, have been explored, there are few records and specimens and no maps of many of these preserved. It can easily be seen that the most mischievous consequences might ensue if pressure is put to bear upon a Government by means of documents signed by hon. members on matters never discussed by the House. It is to be hoped that if this requisition is presented the Government will lay it upon the table, or that, if they do not do so, some member will move for its production, so that the public may see who are the members who can be induced to take so unusual a course. It was reported before the House rose that the whole staff had collapsed, in consequence of several members having withdrawn their names from the requisition.

IN taking charge of the financial affairs, Mr. Service has, to some extent, found the same difficulty that Mr. Birney found on taking office here, namely, that the suddenness of the dissolution had left some necessary expenses unprovided for. Mr. Service has had to use up the advance account, and is still short of funds. One of the first things for the Assembly to do will be to vote money, and perhaps it will have to indemnify the Government for having satisfied claims without authority rather than keep creditors waiting. That, however, is not the whole of the financial difficulty, for it turns out now that so many claims had been allowed to accrue on the Loan Fund; that though the loan has now been successfully floated, there will not be the amount that was anticipated available for fresh works. This will necessarily give rise to some disappointment, and the railway extension scheme will have to be curtailed of its fair proportions. In that case some constituencies will have to go without their little lines, and a good deal of the time spent over Mr. Bent's beautiful distribution amongst all the constituencies is seen to have been wasted. It was simply by that Railway Bill that he kept the House together, and it occupied the attention of the Assembly to the exclusion of other work; but now it has come to grief, and a fresh scheme must be devised.

From some cause or causes not yet explained the number of unregistered students at the Sydney University this year is considerably less than it was last year, when, notwithstanding all that can be said in the way of explanation or otherwise, it

ought to have been much larger. Both public and private education is being extended, and, as we are bound to suppose, is being improved; and yet the boys who present themselves at the University are comparatively few—one might almost say disgracefully so. It is possible that, as people come to understand the meaning and value of the several examinations conducted by the University, the junior and senior examinations are taking their proper places as tests of merit, and that the matriculation is being left to do its proper work; but it is, to ascertain whether a candidate has or has not the ability and the grounding in education needful to enable him to begin and go through a University course with credit. Too often, people have looked upon the matriculation, and have used it as a means to obtain a certificate, which is required in the case of a man to be articled to the law, and which may be useful in many other ways. The iron pillar receivers and receivers at suburban post-offices will only be cleared at the first usual hour on that day.

It will be seen by advertisement in another column that special arrangements have been made by the Railways Department to meet the convenience of travellers during the holiday season. A train will leave Redfern station at 7.30 this evening for Bathurst and Orange, making the same stoppages as the mail train. Another train will leave for Goulburn at 7.50 p.m., making similar stoppages. As the mail trains are expected to be very crowded, the public will do well to avail themselves of these extra trains, and book early. By this means they will promote their own comfort, and to the public convenience. It will also be seen by advertisement that an excursion up the far-famed Hawkesbury River has been arranged to leave Sydney to-morrow.

THE ARGUS gives the following particulars of the narrow escape of a booking-clerk, in the employ of the Railways Department, named Lindon, aged about 18 years, at the Newmarket railway station, at 2 o'clock on Monday afternoon:—It appears that the train leaving Wodonga at 6.10 pulled up at Newmarket at about 2 o'clock, for the purpose of meeting a train coming from Melbourne. Lindon was standing on the Newmarket platform when the Wodonga train pulled up, and as the Melbourne train approached the station he jumped down between the rails, evidently for the purpose of crossing to the other side. When between the rails he noticed the approach of the other train, and being unable to get out of the way, he held up his hands as a signal of danger, but as the train continued to approach he threw himself down on the line between the rails, and the train passed over him. Fortunately his body was clear of the line, and he escaped with some injuries. He was removed to the Melbourne hospital.

ANOTHER ACCIDENT has occurred at the Newmarket railway station, in which a booking-clerk, Mr. La Mees, was injured.

THE CONDITION OF IRELAND. LONDON, MARCH 21.

In the course of a speech in the House of Commons, Mr. Parnell remarked that the state of affairs in Ireland was becoming desperate, and it was quite possible for every kind of violence to be attempted in the present condition of things.

BRISEBANE, WEEDENDAY.

Yesterday was commenced the case of Rush v. Perkins and Company, Limited, before Mr. Justice Hardinge and a jury of 12, at a special Supreme Court sitting.

This action was for the revision of 10,000 shares of the company for the purchase by the plaintiff of 10,000 shares in the company, the removal of plaintiff's name from the register, and the return of his money paid to the plaintiff for shares, and, if necessary, a declaration of the rights and liabilities of the plaintiff in respect of the shares.

A MEETING was held in the Sailors' Reading-room at the Circular Quay, last night, for the purpose of considering the new Licensing Bill, and of advocating the principles of loose legislation. All the members were present, and the chair was taken by Mr. Backhouse. The evidence adduced

